

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 03083 01 OF 02 300426Z

21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HEW-02 AID-05

OES-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 /090 W

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R 290945Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 500

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI BY POUCH

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL BY POUCH

AMCONSUL UDORN BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM

SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA #41

1. HLUTTAW CONCLUDES (UNCLAS)

HLUTTAW (PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY) MEETING CONCLUDED OCTOBER 28, HAVING ACTED ON VARIETY OF MEASURES, MOST OF SCANT INTEREST TO NON-BURMESE. HLUTTAW APPROVED DECENTRALIZATION OF BANKING SYSTEM, WITH UNION OF BURMA BANK TO SERVE AS CENTRAL BANK. THREE OTHER BANKS WILL HANDLE "RETAIL" TRANSACTIONS: BURMA AGRICULTURAL BANK WILL TAKE CARE OF AGRICULTURAL MATTERS; BURMA FOREIGN TRADE BANK EXTERNAL TRANSACTIONS; AND BURMA ECONOMIC BANK ALL OTHER BUSINESS.

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PAGE 02 RANGOO 03083 01 OF 02 300426Z

RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS, PRIME MINISTER U SEIN WIN HINTED AT AN

INCREASE IN OFFICIAL DOMESTIC RICE PRICE. HE ALSO SAID UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES WOULD REOPEN WHEN MEANS HAD BEEN DEVISED FOR STUDENTS TO CARRY OUT "PEACEFUL PURSUIT OF THEIR STUDIES." FINALLY, ASIDE FROM APPOINTMENT OF FORMER AMBASSADOR TO U.S., U LWIN, AS MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND RELATIVE UNKNOWN U MYA MAUNG TO UNSPECIFIED DEPUTY MINISTER SLOT, NO MAJOR CABINET CHANGES MADE DURING HLUTTAW SESSION.

2. CONTINUED PUBLICITY ON THE MUSLIM ISSUE (LOU)

GUB PUBLICIZED FURTHER MEETING OF A MUSLIM ORGANIZATION AT WHICH DECLARATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR THE GUB WERE MADE AS WELL AS DENIALS THAT THERE IS RELIGIOUS OPPRESSION IN BURMA. IN WHAT IS POSSIBLY VEILED REFERENCE TO ONE OF ISSUES REPORTEDLY UNDERLYING THE PRESENT CONTROVERSY, FAILURE OF GUB TO PERMIT PILGRIMAGES TO MECCA, (WEEKA 40, ITEM 3), MUSLIM LEADERS REPORTED THAT GUB HAD TOLD THEM THAT IT WOULD GIVE ALL POSSIBLE HELP IN THEIR RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES.

3. BURMESE INDUSTRIAL DELEGATION IN PRC - NE WIN PRC VISIT
CONFIRMED (UNCLAS)

GUB 21-MEMBER INDUSTRIAL DELEGATION LED BY INDUSTRY MINISTER U HLA AYE PRESENTLY IN PEKING (RANGOON 3044). DELEGATION MADE BRIEF VISIT TO CANTON TRADE FAIR BEFORE PROCEEDING TO PRC CAPITAL. STATED PURPOSE OF VISIT IS TO STUDY CONYIMER GOODS INDUSTRY, STEEL INDUSTRY AND FUEL AND ELECTRIC PROJECTS. HOWEVER, DELEGATION MAY ALSO BE HELPING TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR NE WIN VISIT SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MONTH (RANGOON 3003 AND WEEKA #40, ITEM 1). GUB MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MADE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OCTOBER 25 THAT BURMA'S PRESIDENT WILL PAY OFFICIAL GOODWILL VISIT TO PRC IN MID-NOVEMBER. FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES SAY DECISION TO PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE VISIT MADE TO QUELL SPECULATION AND RUMORS WITHIN DIP CORP ABOUT NE WIN'S POSSIBLE TRAVELS.

4. TERRORISTS SENTENCED (UNCLAS)

RANGOON MILITARY SPECIAL CRIMINAL COURT OCTOBER 23 SENTENCED BA SWE LAY, WHO THREW HAND GRENADES AT FRG AND JAPANESE EMBASSIES
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PAGE 03 RANGOO 03083 01 OF 02 300426Z

IN MAY AND JUNE, TO DEATH. MILITARY COURTS ALSO IN PAST WEEK HANDED OUT LIGHTER SENTENCES TO MOTLEY ASSORTMENT OF OTHER TERRORISTS. IF PAST PRACTICE ANY GUIDE, DEATH SENTENCE WILL NOT BE CARRIED OUT.

5. ROAD TO MANDALAY - AND BEYOND (UNCLAS)

GUB CONSTRUCTION MINISTER TOLD PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY THAT PLANS BEING

MADE TO BUILD NORTH-SOUTH HIGHWAY FROM MANDALAY TO MYITKYINA THROUGH MOGOK, MOMEIK, MABEIN, SI-U AND BHAMO. COMMENT: THESE PLANS MADE IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST BY JAPANESE AMBASSADOR ARITA THAT GUB COME UP WITH VIABLE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT THAT GOJ COULD CONSIDER FOR FINANCING. ARITA CONCERNED THAT A NUMBER OF PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR GOJ FINANCING INCLUDING IRRAWADDY BRIDGE AT PROME HAVE BEEN CANCELLED OR POSTPONED INDEFINITELY, AND HE WANTED AT LEAST ONE MORE GOOD PROJECT PROPOSAL. THESE PLANS LIKELY TO REQUIRE LONG STUDY BEFORE GOJ GIVES SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO FUNDING. ANOTHER PROPOSAL OF MORE IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE IS GUB REQUEST FOR IBRD LOAN OF SOME \$18 MILLION TO FINANCE IMPROVEMENTS TO RANGOON-MANDALAY HIGHWAY. WORLD BANK SEEMS LIKELY TO APPROVE FUNDS FOR THIS PROJECT. GUB CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMALLY CONTACTED EMBASSY REGARDING PURCHASE OF U.S. ROAD CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT FOR PROJECT.

6. NARCOTICS NOTES - ADDICTS IN LASHIO (UNCLAS)

RECENT ARTICLE IN BURMESE PRESS REPORTED A 12-BED SPECIAL NARCOTICS WARD, OPENED SEPTEMBER 1 IN LASHIO, ADDING THAT ADDICTS WERE BEING CURED AT THE RATE OF 24 PER MONTH. 900 ADDICTS HAVE REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW, BUT OVER 3,000 ADDICTS REMAIN UNREGISTERED. COMMENT: THOUGH NOT EXPERTS, WE CANNOT PUT MUCH STOCK IN CURE RATE. THE MEANING, LOST PERHAPS IN TRANSLATION, MAY HAVE BEEN THAT 24 ADDICTS ARE TREATED EACH MONTH. THE 3,000 FIGURE FOR LASHIO, A CENTER FOR NARCOTICS TRADE, DOES NOT APPEAR OVERSTATED.

7. ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION (UNCLAS)

DURING ASSEMBLY SESSIONS JUST CONCLUDED, A STRONG RESOLUTION FOR NATIONWIDE ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTION WAS PROPOSED AND SUPPORTED BY A NUMBER OF MEMBERS. THE RESOLUTION CALLED FOR THE ELIMINATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 RANGOO 03083 01 OF 02 300426Z

DRUGS BOTH ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCALE. COMMENT: NARCOTICS DREW UNUSUAL ATTENTION DURING RECENT HLUTTAW SESSION, PRECIPITATED PRIMARILY BY THE PRESS RELEASE ON BURMA ARMY ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS EARLIER IN OCTOBER.)

UNQUOTE. OSBORN

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 03083 02 OF 02 291130Z

21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HEW-02 AID-05

OES-03 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 /090 W

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R 290945Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 3083

8. MC CAVITT VISIT (UNCLAS)

DR. MARTIN E. MCCAVITT, INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES, HEW, ARRIVED ON OCTOBER 28 AND IS MEETING WITH SEVERAL BURMESE MEDICAL OFFICIALS AS WELL AS WHO REPRESENTATIVES ON NARCOTICS REHABILITATION PROGRAMS. DR. MCCAVITT WILL REMAIN IN BURMA UNTIL NOVEMBER 1.

9. FAMILY PLANNING CAMPAIGN? (LOU)

WHAT MAY BE AN ORCHESTRATED PRESS CAMPAIGN IS UNDER WAY IN FAVOR OF FAMILY PLANNING FOR MURMESE. THE LINE IS THAT PROHIBITION OF BIRTH CONTROL CAUSES DOCTORS AND QUACKS TO PERFORM ILLEGAL OPERATIONS, AND PROMOTES BLACKMARKET CONTRACEPTIVES, WHICH ADD TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 RANGOO 03083 02 OF 02 291130Z

GENERAL DECAY OF SOCIALIST MORALITY IN BURMA. THE TRADITIONAL ARGUMENT THAT BURMA IS UNDERPOPULATED IS OFFSET BY CITING THE NEED TO BALANCE POPULATION AGAINST FOOD PRODUCTION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.

ANY FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM THAT MAY EMERGE WILL NOT INCLUDE ABORTION AS AN ALTERNATIVE AND WILL BE LIMITED BY THE SHORTAGE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR PURCHASES OF CONTRACEPTIVES ABROAD.

10. ROK AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS (UNCLAS)

JIA SANG AN, THE NEW ROK AMBASSADOR TO Z ZMA, PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT NE WIN ON OCTOBER 25TH. THE AMBASSADOR SEEMS PRO-AMERICAN AND REALISTIC ABOUT BURMA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE DPRK. HE WAS DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA FROM HIS LAST POST, ZAIRE, AFTER PROTESTING THAT COUNTRY'S RECOGNITION OF THE DPRK IN VERY VIGOROUS TERMS TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU.

11 ARREST OF U.S. CITIZEN (UNCLAS)

THE ARREST OF AMERICAN CITIZEN ROBERT POUDRIER ON SEPTEMBER 30TH HAS CREATED A DIFFICULT CONSULAR PROBLEM. THE BURMESE HAVE STEADILY INSISTED THAT THEY WILL PERMIT CONSULAR ACCESS WHEN PERMISSION IS GIVEN "BY THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED" (RANGON 3062). IN ABSENCE OF A CONSULAR CONVENTION WITH BURMA TO FORCE THE ISSUE, PERMISSION IS LIKELY TO ARRIVE SHORTLY AFTER MR. POUDRIER COMPLETES HIS TWO MONTH SENTENCE FOR "ACTING IN A MANNER PREJUDICIAL TO THE SAFETY OF THE COUNTRY".

12. SOLUTION TO COOKING OIL SHORTAGE? (UNCLAS)

NEWS ITEM: ON OCTOBER 23 AT 11:30 A.M., DUE TO NEGLECT OF RULES AND REGULATIONS AND FOR INABILITY TO FULFILL PLANNED TARGETS, TOWNSHIP COMMODITY PRICES SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE SHUT DOWN SEVEN OIL MILLS IN MEIKTIAL TOWNSHIP. COMMENT: WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THE BURMESE ROAD TO SOCIALISM MEANDERS THROUGH MANY STRANGE PATHS, THE LOGIC OF CLOSING DOWN THESE MILLS AT A TIME WHEN THE COUNTRY FACES SEVERE SHORTAGE OF COOKING OIL SOMEHOW ESCAPES US.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISCRIMINATION, PARAMILITARY FORCES, CONSTRUCTION, DRUG CONTROL, POLITICAL SUMMARIES, BANKS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greenet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RANGOO03083
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750376-0151
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975109/aaaaaidr.tel
Line Count: 257
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greenet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by greenet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT WEEKA #41
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BM, HLUTTAW, (U SEIN WIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006